(a) whether the arrangements of passengers amenities like drinking water, waiting-room, electricity, public urinals and cleanliness are not adequate at Rajkot, Jamnagar, Amreli and Junagarh Railway Stations (in Western Railway);

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the public and passenger associations in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to provide adequate passenger amenities at these stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No representation has been received in the recent past. However, upgradation of amenities/facilities for the passengers is a continuous process depending on the volume of passenger traffic and availability of resources.

Withdrawal of trains running between Delhi-Jakhal section

790. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of trains running between Delhi-Jakhal section were withdrawn/curtailed in view of the extremism in Punjab; and

(b) if so, whether Govtrnment propose to resume the train services which were suspended as the situation has been normalised in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two pairs of trains were cancelled between Delhi and Bathinda and Jind and Firozpur sections have since been restored. The running of 3 pairs of Express trains, which were diverted to run via Ambala, have also been restored via Jakhal.

Construction of railway line between Hissar-Patiala-Chandigarh

791. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct a Railway line between Hissar-Patiala-Chandigarh via Hissar-Barwala-Narwana-Pattran-Patiala;

(b) whether Government are aware that the paddy rich areas of Khanouri, Pattran, Samana have not any rail links;

(c) whether Government are also aware that this rail link would provide a direct access to the South Western Districts Hissar, Bhiwani, Sirsa, Narwana, Jind and Kaithal of Haryana a short route for Chandigarh; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what action Government intend to take in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Constraints of resources. Consideration of this line will have to wait till resources position improves and some of the ongoing projects get completed.

Modernisation of railway station in Tamil Nadu

792. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some railway stations in Tamil Nadu have been modernised;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of remaining railway stations in Tamil Nadu which are required to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last 10 years, 60 Railway stations in Tamil Nadu have been modernised at a cost of Rs. 4.76 crore.

(c) Modernization of Railway stations is a continuous process and the stations in this regard are selected depending upon traffic needs; general condition and overall availability of funds. Accordingly, modernisation works have been taken up at Kanchipuram, Madras Central, Tirunelveli Jn. and Tuticorin stations at a cost of Rs. 2.54 crore.

Construction of overbridge in Thurupur, Tamil Nadu

793. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work of construction of an overbridge in Thurupur in Tamil Nadu is going on; and

(b) if so, by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is expected to be completed by January '95.

Introduction of Palace-on-Wheels train

794. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Tourism Department is actively considering to introduce Palace-on-Wheels Train with a view to attract more and more tourists from abroad;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken by Railway Department;

(c) if so, what are the places where this Palace-on-Wheels train would be touching; and

(d) to what extent it would be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (d) Ministry of Railways have not received any such proposal from the Government of Gujarat.

Facilities at Kurla Railway Terminal, Bombay

795. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to improve the facilities at the Kurla Railway Terminal in Bombay;

(b) what are the expansion programme of this Terminal for the next four years;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to halt all incoming and outgoing long distance trains of this Kurla Terminal at Ghatkopar; and

(d) if so, what is the Railways' response to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) A Parcel Siding is being developed at Kurla Terminal.

(b) Phase II work of this terminal including provision of three additional platforms, three additional washing cum pit lines, three additional dry pit lines and additional shunting neck etc. at Kurla Passenger Terminal is being planned.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In the Bombay suburban section, priority is given to running of EMU services. In order to provide additional services to the commuters the time interval between the trains is proposed to be reduced to 3 minutes from the present 5 minutes service. Suburban platform cannot, therefore, be used for stoppage to through trains.

Multiplicity of terminals will also be a hindrance to increasing frequency of trains. Provision of additional platform at Ghatkopar will involve huge expenditure, which is not considered justified in the present context of economy.